# MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Members in Attendance: Beverley Bevilacqua, Cynthia DeAngelis, Kerrie Fallon, Susan

James, Michael Rademacher, Maureen St. Hilaire, Susan

Savage Tennant,

Members Absent: John Thompson, Patrick Quinn

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

## **Review of Town Day 2015:**

Cynthia DeAngelis said that if the Commission provides balloons in the future at Town Day then the Commission should rent and have delivered to the site a large helium tank capable of inflating all the balloons. Cynthia said that the tank rented from Taylor Rental was too heavy for one person to carry. Maureen St. Hilaire said that the table next to the Commission's table complained about the noise level of the Commission helium tank while inflating the balloons. Jack Jones said that the Commission should either find a volunteer or hire someone in the future to inflate balloons at Town Day. Cynthia said that the Commission in the future should have greeters out front to meet with interested residents. Susan James said that the Commission should have a clip board for people to sign. Cynthia said that several people asked if the Commission had a newsletter this year. Cynthia and Maureen suggested that the Commission prepare some form of newsletter next year. Jack said that louder speakers are needed for the puppet show. Maureen suggested that next year Susan James bring her fish game that deals with mental health awareness. Maureen said that next year the Commission should purchase more Halloween bags in that many people requested these bags that have been used at previous Town Days. Kerrie Fallon said that two chairs should be provided in front of the both for people to sit on. The Commission agreed that a sub-committee should be established a few months prior to Town Day to plan for this event.

#### **Diversity Carrier Fair:**

Jack Jones said that the Diversity Career Fair will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium on September 24, 2015 between 11:00 - 1:00 P.M... The Commission has agreed to provide space at the Town Hall, bottled water and also 25 parking permits, for employers. Gregg Ames, Placement Specialist Mass. Rehabilitation Commission, said that in 2014 Twenty-two individuals found employment at the Diversity Fair. Jack said that Gregg already has 16 employers scheduled to attend this year's fair. Gregg hopes to have close to thirty employers signed up prior to the Fair. Jack said that Gregg will promote the Fair on Craigslist, Indeed, and LinkedIn. Cynthia said an announcement should be placed on Patch and the Arlington Advocate. Mike Rademacher said that an announcement should be placed on the Town's Web Site.

#### Transition from School to Adult Life:

Jack said that a Transition Fair will be held at the Town hall Auditorium on Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4pm – 7pm. Agencies that will be participating in the Transition Fair are Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, NAMI, Middlesex Community College, BenePlan, and North Shore Career Center. The purpose of the Transition Fair is for students with disabilities transitioning into adult life and their parents to obtain information about available resources.

#### **Curb Cuts:**

Michael said that the Town's contractor is finishing up the curb cuts for this year which will include approximately 60 funded through CDBG with another approximate 20 funded through Public Work. Michael said that next year the Commission may want to consider in addition to curb cuts requesting funding for repair to some sidewalks. Michael said that the consultant that was hired to review sidewalk and curb cuts said that the Town needs approximately 20 million dollars of sidewalk and curb ramp work.

## **Budget:**

Jack provided copies of the Commission's budget were he said \$804.50 has been expended since July 1, 2015 leaving \$2,195.50 unspent as of September 16, 2015.

## **True Story Theatre:**

Cynthia said that though the Commission talks about many disabilities it does not often talk about mental health disabilities. Susan James has and will continue to update the Commission on events at the True Story Theatre.

#### Other Business:

Cynthia said that the Commission should open a face book page. Michael expressed concern about using the Arlington List for providing information; he does not want residents to feel that the A-List is the place to go for information. Kerrie suggested developing a flyer in large print that would be left at Elderly Housing Developments.

Jack said that two accessible parking spaces are being provided on Maple Street outside the Senior Center.

Cynthia developed a new Commission brochure listing several highlights over the past twenty-five years instead of listing all the accomplishments.

## Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.